

What's this class all about?

- An introduction to the design of embedded systems, with emphasis on software
- How are these changing our world?
	- Smart phones and apps
	- Autonomous vehicles
	- Facial recognition systems
	- The Internet of Things
- What role does software play in these devices and systems?

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Digital functionality

- Embedded platforms seldom employ fully custom devices; – Instead, commodity parts are integrated in a platform-specific way
- System behavior is determined by standard microprocessors customized *through software*
- This brings significant flexibility: to change the function, simply change the program

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• But what is the cost of software?

Software: the downside

- **Code size** is a problem, memory demands continue to increase
	- $-$ Old voice-only cell phones had ~ 8 MB ROM, 4 MB RAM
	- RAM in iPhone 1: 128MB, iPhone 4: 512MB, iPhone 5/6: 1GB
	- Total code in smart phone: >20 M lines
	- Total code in avg. high end automobile: >100 M lines
	- But productivity just 100-200 lines of code per programmer per month!
	- How can projects ever finish?!
- **Code complexity** is a problem
	- Even small embedded systems can require major development effort
	- Tools used to manage software development have "productivity factors" for real-time embedded systems that are much lower than standard systems
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Software: the downside • Consequence: hardware costs dwarfed by software costs

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concurrent?

- $-20:1, 50:1$ not uncommon in embedded systems (SW:HW)
- Testing and debugging are responsible for $~50\%$ of the cost of developing conventional software
	- In real-time systems, they are responsible for \sim 70%
	- Conventional debugging aids don't "see" many of the bugs
	- Generally impossible to exercise all timing possibilities
- Factors contributing to software complexity – Typical embedded code uses *concurrent* constructs Was your 330 code
- Target systems can differ greatly from each other
- Devices often networked (creating security vulnerabilities)

Software dominates

- Strong demand for engineers developing embedded systems.
- Most common title is software engineer
	- Deceptive: means programmer that uses scope, logic analyzer to debug!
- Most common background:
	- CpE or EE
	- Why not CS?
		- SW drives HW directly
		- Detailed knowledge of HW required by SW developer
		- Often no safety net: some SW bugs can fry hardware

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Embedded software

- Embedded systems are important part of computer engineering at BYU
- We have other classes that emphasize the hardware.
- Emphasis in this class is the software
	- What is unusual about software for embedded systems? – What are challenges involved in designing, coding, and debugging
	- this type of software?
- You'll be able to answer these questions in detail by end of semester!

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Class emphasis

• Main focus is the lab sequence

- You will create a simple but complete RTOS
	- RTOS = real-time operating system
	- Something similar used in many embedded systems
	- Development done in user-friendly simulation environment
- Goals:
- Understand software structures, algorithms required for preemptive multi-tasking
- Understand relationship of hardware interrupts and software interrupt handlers
- ©J Archibald 425 F19 1:11 • Understand how to construct software to respond to important events in a timely fashion – critical in real-time systems

• I want students in this class to

My goals

- become interested in the challenges of designing reliable real-time and/or embedded systems
- know enough about embedded software development to do well in job interviews in that discipline
- have a thorough knowledge of the functionality and limitations of real-time operating systems
- gain experience creating application code with real-time constraints
- be better computer engineers by having greater understanding of the underlying system and acquiring more design, programming, and debugging experience

Labs

- Initial labs done by each individual; RTOS labs done in groups of two.
	- After lab 4, working alone requires special permission.
	- Significant benefits of having someone to argue with!
- Not color-by-number projects:
	- The API is specified (system functions you code up)
	- You design the underlying data structures, use them in a consistent way, and make it all work
	-
- Projects can be time consuming
- Debugging concurrent code is challenging – Unlike virtually all previous coding you've done
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Why challenging?

- They are not artificially complicated; the complexity is inherent
- The challenge is not creating lots of code
	- Size of my full kernel (including comments, blank lines)
	- C code (.c and .h): 955 lines total in 4 files Assembly code (.s): 175 lines total in 2 files
- The challenge is that your code is concurrent and must work reliably; the details really matter
- Warning:
	- Students report \sim 10x difference in time to do labs
	- Example: one group takes 2 hours, another takes 20

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Prerequisites

- I'm assuming you've taken (and remember things from!):
	- CS 142
	- $-$ ECEn 220
	- ECEn 330
- Critical material:
	- Knowledge of C programming language
	- Experience designing and debugging code with timing constraints
	- Understanding general operation of computer systems

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Lab policies

• Keep up!

- Labs build on each other; hard to get caught up if you get behind – Additional motivation: late lab penalty
	- 25% per day first two weekdays
	- 20% per weekday thereafter, to max of 90% off
- Department policy: complete all labs to pass the class
- Honor code expectation:
- All code you use must be original (written by you + partner)

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Homework • Combination of two kinds of assignments – Excursions relating to C Selected problems from text • Upload file (.txt or .pdf) to Learning Suite before 11:00pm on due date – Please keep submissions neat and organized – Used fixed-point font for code listings, with proper indentation • Assignments can be accessed from the class web page

Text, Attendance • An Embedded Software Primer, Simon

• Class attendance is important

– Very readable and technically sound – Written by experienced practitioner.

- We will discuss many things not covered in the text:
- Important issues related to labs insight that will save you time!

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- Discussion of case studies, other supplemental material
- Something interesting to start every class

Grading

- Overall grade determined by: 30% from labs 10% from homework 30% from midterms (two, closed book, in class) 30% from final (closed book, at scheduled time)
- Midterms & solutions from Fall 2018 are online
- Letter grades assigned subject to college/dept. guidelines Class GPA will be \sim 3.1; median grade will be a B

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Thought experiment

- Your team is designing a rover to explore the surface of Mars.
- What special challenges must your team address?
- What should the onboard control software do if something goes wrong?

Perversities, cont.

"Any rule followed by 85% of engineers as part of the accepted gospel of standard practice has to be broken by the other 15% just to get their systems to work."

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If this is true, what role should rules play?

©J Archibald 425 F19 1:26 The C language • The *lingua franca* of embedded systems – C compiler available even for small microcontrollers – C is simple; resulting code and behavior predictable – C++, Java more complicated; less frequently supported • C essential in this class – Labs done in C and assembly – Text assumes reading knowledge (C!!) • C is reasonably portable, but far from perfect C combines the power of assembly language with the ease of use of assembly language. Mark Pearce

• Complications:

- Network data is broken into packets which may arrive out-oforder, or be lost entirely.
- Multiple machines may try to use the printer at same time.
- Printer status must be made available at all times to any requesting computer regardless of what printer is doing.
- Must work with different kinds of computers without any special customization.
- Must figure out type of attached printer at power up.
- Must provide response to certain network packets within 200 ms.
- Must handle timeouts if computer crashes while printing, job
- must be terminated, printer reset, and next job started.
- Must work without human intervention.
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Other design issues

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• Throughput

– Is it fast enough to keep up with data rates of transfers from computer to printer?

• Response time

- Can it provide a timely response to important events? • Testability
- Can it be shown to work under all conditions?
- Debugability
- How will errors in system be located and fixed?
- **Reliability**
- Will it work as well as customers expect?

Other system design concerns

- Power consumption
	- How do we design to maximize battery lifetime?
	- Software can power-down system when unused, but how to turn it on again?
- Minimizing system cost
	- Saving a few cents is a big deal (assuming high volume, low margins)

- Minimize size of ROM and RAM; use small OS
- Balancing conflicting needs
	- Substantial computation vs. fast response time
	- Response time is best when system isn't otherwise busy

Discussion

- If there is no disk, how does a program get loaded at power-up?
- Do embedded systems require both ROM and RAM?
- How are embedded systems debugged without a keyboard and monitor?

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- What are the "tasks" in our earlier example? – How are they represented?
	- Who decides how many and assigns the priorities?
- Lots more on these issues!

Schedule of Topics

• That's it for Chapter 1

– Think about the implications of what we've talked about

• Next up:

– Background information on the x86 architecture and tools that we'll be using this semester

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x86 history

- 1978: 16-bit 8086 announced, assembly-language compatible with 8-bit 8080. Many registers added 8080 was accumulator machine.
- 1980: 8087 FP coprocessor announced, 60 FP instructions added that use an extended stack architecture.
- 1982: 80286 extended address space to 24 bits; maintained compatibility with 8086 *real addressing*.
- 1985: 80386 extended architecture to 32 bits, with 32-bit registers and address space.
- Many extensions and add-ons since.

8086: Flags

• Only 9 of 16 bits are used

- Referred to as of, df, if, tf, sf, zf, af, pf, cf
- Set to reflect the result of various instructions and operations
- Example: cf set if result generated a carry; adc (add with carry) used to do 32-bit adds with 16-bit operations

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- Example: of, sf, zf, cf set by arithmetic operations and comparisons;
- values determine outcome of conditional jumps
- Class webpages on instruction set give operational details

8086: Multiplication and division

- Require extra care to perform properly
- Multiplying two 16-bit operands produces a 32-bit result, overwriting two 16-bit registers
	- Operands must be in correct registers
	- Answer must be extracted from the right registers
- Part of Lab 1: figure out how these instructions work, use them in assembly code
	- Good way to proceed: write simple C programs, compile them (using class tools), and study assembly outp
	- Then write assembly code that does just what you want
- Don't be afraid to experiment!

